

Will Dr. Isaac Funk Signal From the Spirit World?



EUSAPIA PALADINO.
Through whom Lombroso arranged to communicate.



LOMBROSO.
Whose spirit message is awaited in Milan.



JAMES H. HYSLOP.
Head of the Society for Psychical Research, and through whom Dr. Funk is expected to communicate.



PROFESSOR WILLIAM JAMES.
Who arranged to communicate through Hyslop.



DR. ISAAC KAUFMAN FUNK.

BY JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS.
THAT our savants engaged in psychic research now have their star opportunity to prove that the dead can communicate with the living is claimed by many devotees of this mystic science.

It has become known that prior to his death, April 4, no less a solid citizen than Dr. Isaac Kaufman Funk, head of the publishing firm of Funk, Wagnall, and editor of the Standard Dictionary, completed elaborate arrangements to make, after his demise, authoritative communications with the American Society for Psychical Research.

Speaking of his improved arrangements for transmitting these post-mortem messages, Dr. Funk said, some months ago:

"We have determined on a certain code of signals, which no one on earth knows but the person to whom I will communicate and myself. If he receives one of these signals after my death he will be absolutely certain by it that I have reached him. It will then establish communication with me, either through a designated medium or by some means which I may find in the next world. As I am a much older man than he is, there is very probability that I will die before he

does and while he is actively engaged in his occult studies."

It is taken for granted by those interested in the test that the person with whom the noted publisher made this compact is Dr. James H. Hyslop, former professor of psychology at Columbia University, who had similarly arranged for post-mortem communication with other noted men.

Dr. Funk, who at the time of his death was in his seventy-third year, served as a Lutheran minister until he founded the publishing house which bears his name. For a quarter of a century he had been active as a prohibitionist and reform leader. In the course of his investigations of spiritualism he had fearlessly exposed all phenomena which he had suspected as fraudulent.

His Experiments During Life.
Some time ago it was announced that he had been the participant in a most interesting psychic experiment. He shut himself in a room in Brooklyn, at the same witching hour when, by prearrangement, a group of people in a room at Lyons, N. Y., was hypnotized and commanded to concentrate their minds upon him. Then, when the doctor, in his room, drew the picture of a fish, it is said the hypnotized ones at Lyons pronounced the word "fish," while when he raised his arm toward

the ceiling they exclaimed, "He points upward."

It is also related that when Dr. Funk was compiling the Standard Dictionary he wished to use a drawing of the "widow's mite," an ancient coin worth hundreds of dollars. A specimen was found in the possession of a friend of Henry Ward Beecher, who arranged that Dr. Funk might borrow it.

Then Beecher died, and time passed without the doctor's thinking more about the matter until some time ago, when he was investigating a spiritualist medium, who announced a communication from the departed divine. The spirit of Beecher during this seance, it is claimed, reminded Dr. Funk that the "widow's mite" had never been returned, and directed him to seek it in the latter's office safe under a stack of old papers. Dr. Funk searched as directed, and he alleged, found the coin just where the supposed spirit said it would be, but where no one, not even the cashier, had suspected that it had so long reposed. These and other alleged experiences brought the learned lexiconographer to the conclusion that there are "whole classes of phenomena which point clearly to the operation of intelligent forces that exist outside

of what we know as human bodies."

Such experiments brought Dr. Funk in contact with Dr. Hyslop and a close friendship grew between them. Their arrangement for the test of spirit communication is said to have been suggested by a similar compact between Dr. Hyslop and the noted psychologist, Professor William James, of Harvard, who died years before last.

It is rumored that Dr. Hyslop believes that he has already received communications from Professor James, and that he is preparing to publish them in the Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research, which he is the founder and active head.

Professor James was the discoverer of Mrs. Leonore E. Piper, the famous Boston medium. It was twenty years ago that he found out the peculiar powers of this remarkable woman, who has since been tested by the trained psychic researchers of two continents, and who lately surrendered herself completely to the British Society of Psychical Research. During these latter experiments this trance medium, although isolated, guarded and subjected to the severest of tests by a committee of trained skeptics, is reported to have described what other



MRS. LEONORE PIPER.
Boston Psychist, who converted Hodgson, Hyslop, James and Lodge.

persons were doing and saying hundreds of miles away.

That queen of mystics, Mme. Blavatsky, is alleged to have been exposed in India by a strenuous Australian investigator, Richard Hodgson, who afterward settled down in Boston, where he became head of the old American branch of the British Society of Psychical Research, and where he met Professor James, who took him to see Mrs. Piper. Dr. Hodgson studied this woman for eighteen years, and she convinced him that telepathy, automatic writing and communication with the dead were bona fide phenomena. To give her a special test, Dr. Hodgson arranged a unique course of experiments, in which he was aided by Dr. Hyslop, then professor at Columbia.

Masked Himself and Visited Medium.
Professor Hyslop masked himself and disguised his voice during his visits to her, and while she lay unconscious, with her head upon a pillow resting on a table, her hand wrote out messages alleged to come from his father. She conveyed Hyslop to the spiritualist hypothesis, and his announcements of the fact made a stir in the scientific world. He and Hodgson formed a compact that whoever died first should communicate with the other, and Professor Hyslop expressed to me some time ago his satisfaction that he has received messages from Hodgson since the latter's death in 1905.

Through Mrs. Piper, Professor James and his wife discovered to get in touch with the deceased Hodgson, and a few months before the noted psychologist's death he contributed an exhaustive report on these experiments, concerning which he said:

"But if asked whether the will to communicate be Hodgson's or be some other spirit, I cannot say. I remain uncertain and await more facts, facts which may not point clearly to a conclusion for fifty or one hundred years."

In the course of his experiments with Mrs. Piper, a secret password from his dead father was received. Professor Hyslop by her, it is claimed, before she had ever seen him in her conscious state. When later he got the same password from an orthodox minister's wife, who had also developed trance mediumship and "automatic writing," Professor Hyslop commenced experimenting with this new subject, who, to protect her from the annoyance of publicity, is referred to under the pseudonym "Mrs. Smead" in the reports of the American Society for Psychical Research.

The Woman of Mystery.
She is a woman of mystery, and all that has been revealed about her of a personal nature is that she is a blue-eyed young woman of modest and retiring temperament, who lives about twenty-four hours off from New York in a town which is surrounded by an evergreen forest, and in which her husband enjoys good standing as rector of an orthodox church surrounded by a cross.

While she is in a trance her head is held in a special headrest, which Dr. Hyslop exhibited to me, and her moving finger writes upon paper spread on a sewing table at her side. She was studied also by Dr. Hodgson, on the night that he dropped dead while playing handball she is said to have seen his apparition, which reported to her: "It is better here than I had hoped for."

Another noted savant who made a compact to prove this to the hundreds of his brother savants, some of whom, because of his spiritualistic views, came to regard him as a fantastic

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visionary, that he made this solemn ante-mortem compact to place himself, after death, in definite communication with his fellow-members of the Milan Society for Psychical Research. And he arranged that his communications should be made through that famous Italian medium with whom he had been experimenting for the past four years, Eusapia Paladino, who was called "the despair of science," and who made a tour of America several years ago. In this country Paladino did not make the creditable showing that her managers had hoped for, and several of our investigators are claimed to have exposed her. Whether the Milan Society has received Lombroso's promised revelations through her or other mediums has not been announced as yet to the world of science.

Noted Thinkers Lately Converted.

It is remarkable how many noted thinkers are capitulating to the spiritualist hypothesis. Professor Chas. Richet, of the Faculty of Medicine, Paris, claims to have photographed the spirit of a Spanish soldier, and Camille Flammarion, the French astronomer, is now an aggressive convert of spiritualism. He says he has proved that such phenomena as the movement of chairs without contact and the suspension of heavy tables in space are bona fide, he having secured photographs of some floating in the air.

No less than an ex-Prime Minister has recently been a leader of a ghost hunters of England, where he has served as president of the Society for Psychical Research. He insists that science cannot explain the psychic wonders which he has witnessed. While he claims to have received from an investigation of 256 cases of apparitions of the dying in England and Wales, and of these fifty-two cases were accepted as beyond the laws of chance or the possibility of fraud.

Two noted British knights, renowned for their breadth of intellect, have surrendered even more completely. Sir Oliver Lodge, head of the University of Birmingham, in a recent journal of the British Society for Psychical Research, has given details of messages which he claims to have received from dead members of the society through the pen of a writing medium known as "Mrs. Hollanders," another of these psychic "women of mystery." From Edmund Gurney, one of the founders of the society, Sir Oliver received an alleged message commenting: "I appear to be standing behind a sheet of frosted glass which blurs the sight and deadens sounds." ...

Our aforementioned medium, Mrs. Piper, has had a hand in converting Sir Oliver. He got her to come to his Liverpool residence, where, in the presence of a committee, she is reported to have told just what two women, utter strangers to her, were doing minute by minute in their London home.

Communications From Dead Author.
A brilliant English litterateur, W. H. Myers, died in 1901 upon completing a noted work, "Human Personality," dealing with this problem of survival of personality after death. Prior to his passing away he expressed his intention of writing, after death, this crucial experiment of exerting his own influence upon minds still carnate. After a series of trials with Mrs. Piper and other mediums, Sir Oliver Lodge has announced that Myers, Hodgson and others have, during these tests, been "constantly purporting to communicate with us, with the express purpose of patiently proving their identity, giving us cross-correspondence between different mediums."

The other British knight referred to as a convert is the celebrated chemist and inventor of the X-ray tube, Sir William Crookes. Some time ago Sir William risked his scientific reputation by reporting to an exalted body he had communed with a materialized spirit known as "Katie King"; how he had had crystals placed in his palm by hands not belonging to any persons in the room with him, and how in broad daylight he had seen a cloud condense into a hand, which carried objects about. This exalted body to which he reported these alleged phenomena was no less than the British Royal Society. His paper was ignominiously thrown out, the great society's outraged secretary refusing to so much as enter it upon the files.

Great Editor Now a Medium.
Quite as enthusiastic a convert is William T. Stead, the well known editor of the English Review of Reviews, who lately surprised the British empire with the announcement that he had become a writing medium. At first the noted editor accepted telepathy, and claimed to have written down

the thoughts of living men many miles away. Then, of late years, he alleges he has gotten into close communion with the dead. While engaged in his automatic writing he claims his right arm becomes impassive, while his fingers guide a pen over paper on which appear letters from his son, the brilliant young writer, William, who died several years ago. Mr. Stead states that this writing appears without his exerting any will power to either hold the pen or move it.

Next Editor Stead announced the opening in London of his Julia's bureau, a public telegraph office, where any one might call up friends across the gulf. This bureau is so-called because its "spirit control"—the operator upon the Stygian side—is alleged to be the shade of a pious Chicago woman, Miss Julia A. Ames, who for some years edited the American organ of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. It appears that Miss Ames, like Lombroso, Professor James and Dr. Funk, made arrangements to come back after death, and that she made such arrangements with a materialized good. "Twice she came, and at the second instance I happened to be staying at the castle where her apparition has been seen," says Editor Stead. "As my hand began to write automatically, I then placed it at the disposal of Miss Ames, and she has used it as her own ever since."

This she became the Julia of "Julia's bureau," through which Mr. Stead some time ago claimed to have received the startling campaign literature sent over the spirit wireless by the great Gladstone.

Write Compact in Blood.
And it might be recalled that no less a light than the noted Lord Brougham, lord chancellor of England, reported the fulfillment of such a pact as Dr. Funk entered into—made with his lordship's most intimate boyhood friend, "G." with whom he attended university.

We frequently in our walks discussed and speculated upon many grave subjects, among others on the immortality of the soul and on a future state," wrote the chancellor in his memoirs. "This question and the possibility, I will not say of ghost walking, but of the dead appearing to the living, were subjects of much speculation; and we actually committed the folly of drawing up an agreement, written with our blood, to the effect that whichever of us died first should appear to the other and thus solve any doubts we had entertained of 'the life after death.'"

This chum entered the civil service in India and seldom wrote to Brougham, who after a few years almost forgot him. How this compact was weirdly fulfilled Lord Brougham thus tells in his journal of December 15, 1705: "I had taken, as I have said, a warm bath; and while lying in it... I turned my head round, looking toward the chair on which I had deposited my clothes." ... On the chair sat G. looking calmly at me. How I got out of the bath I know not, but on recovering my senses I found myself sprawling on the floor. The apparition, or whatever it was that had taken the likeness of G., had disappeared."

All of this, according to the record, occurred during a visit to London, and soon after his return to Edinburgh Brougham received "a letter from India announcing G's death and stating that he had died on the 19th of December."

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